

S-E-C-R-E-T

11 February 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)
Deputy Director (Intelligence)
Deputy Director (Support)

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SUBJECT : [REDACTED] Reporting System

REFERENCES : (a) Memorandum from Planning Group to
Deputy Directors, 27 Feb 59,
Subject: [REDACTED] Reporting System

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(b) Memorandum from Planning Group to
Deputy Directors, 27 Jul 59,
Subject: Planning Group for Rapid
Reporting System

1. This memorandum is for information only. It is an interim report from an Agency Planning Group established by the Deputy Directors and relates actions taken and progress made in the development of the [REDACTED] Reporting System.

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2. BACKGROUND

a. Formation of Planning Group

In November 1958 a Planning Group was formed at your direction to develop a mechanically integrated system to increase materially the speed and effectiveness of the Agency's intelligence transmissions. The Planning Group, comprised of representatives from all major components having a direct interest in this problem, first conducted a short series of briefings to acquaint members with the principal matters with which they were expected to deal. Then a team was designated to devise a system, employing modern mechanical techniques, to improve and accelerate the flow of intelligence information from field collectors to using analysts.

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b. [REDACTED] Reporting System

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In February 1959 the [REDACTED] Reporting System was proposed. Under this system, field stations use

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Flexowriters (or other tape-punching typewriters) to originate intelligence reports which thereafter are relayed and reproduced automatically. Original tapes are mechanically encrypted, transmitted to Headquarters by unaccompanied pouch (or high-speed communications equipment when available), and mechanically decrypted and typed. In submitting its recommendations, the Planning Group expressed the belief that the [REDACTED] proposal holds high promise of providing a rapid reporting system for the Agency and might well provide the basis for an improved system encompassing other members of the intelligence community. However, it was recognized that a number of technical and procedural problems had to be resolved before any final judgment could be made. Accordingly, it was suggested that a pilot model of the [REDACTED] system be established so an actual test of its feasibility could be conducted while further study was being given to technical and procedural matters. This was approved and the test began 25 March.

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c. [REDACTED]

On 27 July 1959 the Planning Group reported to the Deputy Directors that results from the [REDACTED] test showed clearly that the [REDACTED] system is feasible. From a technical point of view, the system worked well and could be made to work even better. Effective counter measures had been developed for the potential security threat discovered in the Flexowriter. And the various procedural questions connected with the system all appeared susceptible of solution. The opinion was expressed, however, that any wide-scale adoption of the [REDACTED] system should await the development of input equipment that will function more satisfactorily than the present Flexowriter and Teletype machines. Such equipment, it is hoped, will be available commercially before the end of next year. In the interim, the Planning Group recommended a moderate extension of the system, using available equipment, and a continued period of operational development sufficient to permit valid determinations and recommendations to be made as to its long-term usefulness and application.

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3.

DEVELOPMENTS SINCE LAST REPORT

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a. [REDACTED] has continued to transmit [REDACTED] reports on an experimental basis. Between 7 March (when the test started) and 31 December 1959, 440 reports were originated of which 192 received final Headquarters dissemination. During the first part of this period, reports came to Washington by pouch, averaging 7.4 calendar days from typing [REDACTED] to receipt by DD/I analysts. Beginning in September, the reports have been relayed electrically [REDACTED] using free time on the circuit allocated for the new KW-26 on-line encryption equipment there. This change has cut the average time to 6.3 calendar days. Still greater reductions in transmission and processing time are possible, of course. But, so far, the quality of the information being reported [REDACTED] via [REDACTED] is too low to justify "forcing" the system.

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b. A Teletape link [REDACTED] was activated 4 September, and in mid-December [REDACTED] began originating [REDACTED] reports. Materials are transmitted to Washington via unclassified pouch. [REDACTED] is second among field stations in the number of reports originated, [REDACTED] being first.

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c. The [REDACTED] started in January to submit a small number of [REDACTED] reports. This may be a prelude to more promising volume from that important reporting center. [REDACTED] reports are transmitted electrically and are usually disseminated to DD/I analysts the same day or the day after their preparation in [REDACTED]

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d. The Teletape link with [REDACTED] is expected to become active during February. [REDACTED] reporting should follow as soon thereafter as station personnel become familiar with the equipment.

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e. [REDACTED] has established a Teletape link on a test basis using M-19 Teletype machines. Experience so far indicates that the M-19 is quite satisfactory for ordinary correspondence but would require highly skilled operators if used for [REDACTED] reporting.

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f. All Flexowriters used by field stations in connection with the Teletape and [REDACTED] programs have been modified to meet prescribed security standards.

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g. Several procedures employed at Headquarters in the initial phases of the [REDACTED] test have been modified. Because of the small volume and low quality of reports received thus far, the coding and evaluation features of the system cannot be tested properly and have been dropped temporarily. Until the coding step is resumed, [REDACTED] reports will skip the Cable Secretariat and go directly from the decryption point (Signal Center) to the responsible Area Division for reproduction and processing.

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h. Negotiations with office machine manufacturers to obtain proposals for an automatic typewriter suitable for long-term use in the [REDACTED] system continue to support the hope that such machines will be available commercially in 1961.

i. The Office of Communications reports that firms to which contracts have been given for development of photo encryption equipment are making progress. However, it is too early yet to tell whether this technique can be perfected so as to serve as a useful supplement to the [REDACTED] system.

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j. The Office of Communications is making strides in extending KW-26 automatic on-line encryption facilities to overseas areas. Three field locations now have KW-26's and 7 others will have them by summer. A number of other locations will be added to the group as equipment becomes available. This program, by greatly increasing the electrical communicating facilities of the Agency, has important long-range significance for the [REDACTED] system.

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4. The Planning Group will continue with the operational development of the [REDACTED] system, along the lines approved in Reference B. We also expect to submit within the next six months a comprehensive report covering other activities of the Group in addition to its work with [REDACTED]

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Chairman, Planning Group